



## **U.S. National Ice Center**

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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## **U.S National Ice Center Observes 2017 Antarctic Sea Ice Maximum**

October 27, 2017 SUITLAND, MD — U.S. National Ice Center (USNIC) monitors Antarctic sea ice growth, which appeared to reach a maximum on September 15, 2017 at 17.98 million square kilometers, after which sea ice values began to decrease. On September 27, 2017, however, after a low point of 17.73 million square kilometers was reached, sea ice values began an increasing trend to the October 12, 2017 maximum.

USNIC ice analysis identified the 2017 Antarctic sea ice maximum extent was reached on October 12, 2017. Peaking at 18.03 million square kilometers, this is the second lowest daily maximum extent recorded by the Center since 1986, which had a maximum of 17.96 million square kilometers. In 2014, the greatest maximum daily extent was recorded at 20.16 million square kilometers as shown in the National Snow and Ice Data Center (NSIDC) graph in figure 1.

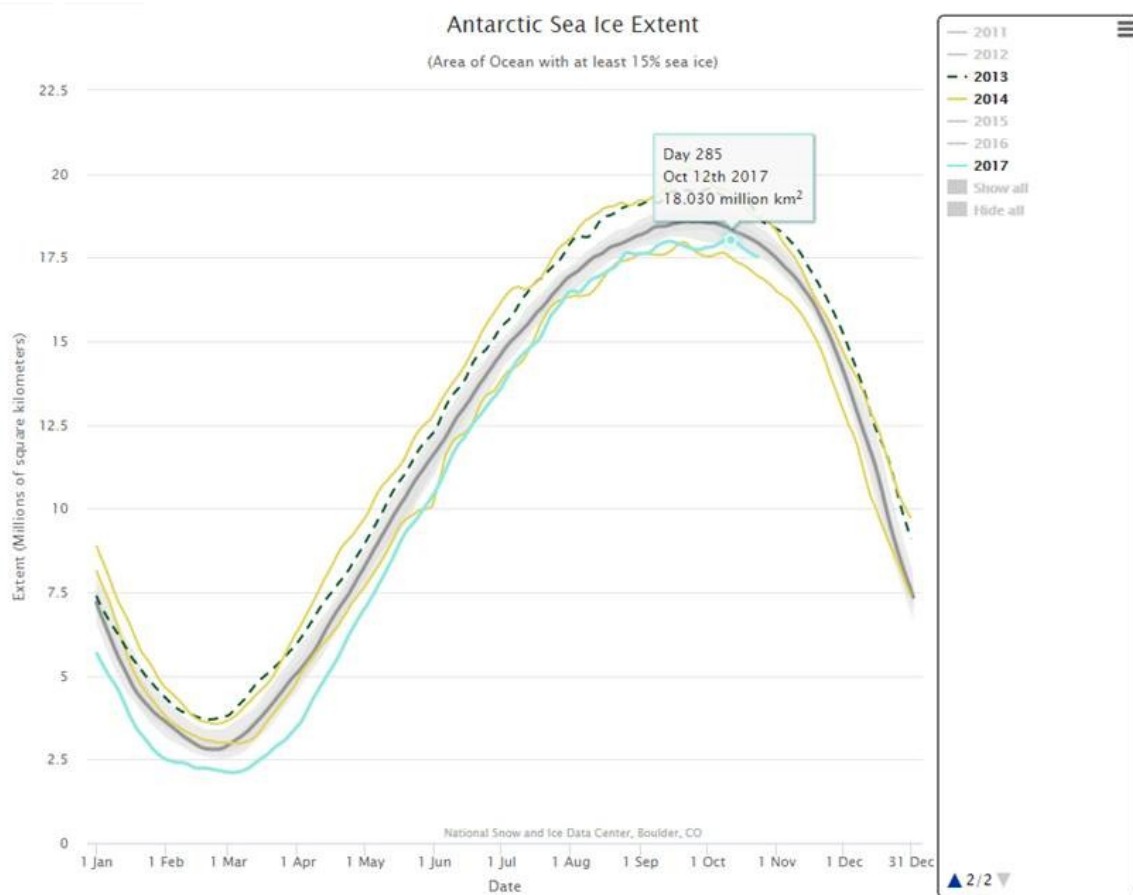


Figure 1. Antarctic sea ice extent as of October 25, 2017 with daily ice extent data for 2017 (aqua), 2013 (dotted green) 2014 (gold) and 1986 (Yellow). The 1981 to 2010 median is in dark gray. Credit: National Snow and Ice Data Center.

USNIC produces a daily ice analysis product that depicts the transition between the open ocean (ice free) and the pack ice. This is known as the Marginal Ice Zone (MIZ). The MIZ is analyzed by USNIC's sea ice experts using multiple sources of satellite data, buoy data, and analyst interpretation of current weather information. The image in figure 2 is a USNIC analysis of the Antarctic MIZ for October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017 depicting the Antarctic sea ice maximum extent for 2017. The Antarctic MIZ for September 21, 2014 is also overlaid in black and purple solid lines contrasting the current October 2017 sea ice max to September 2014, when the greatest sea ice max was recorded.

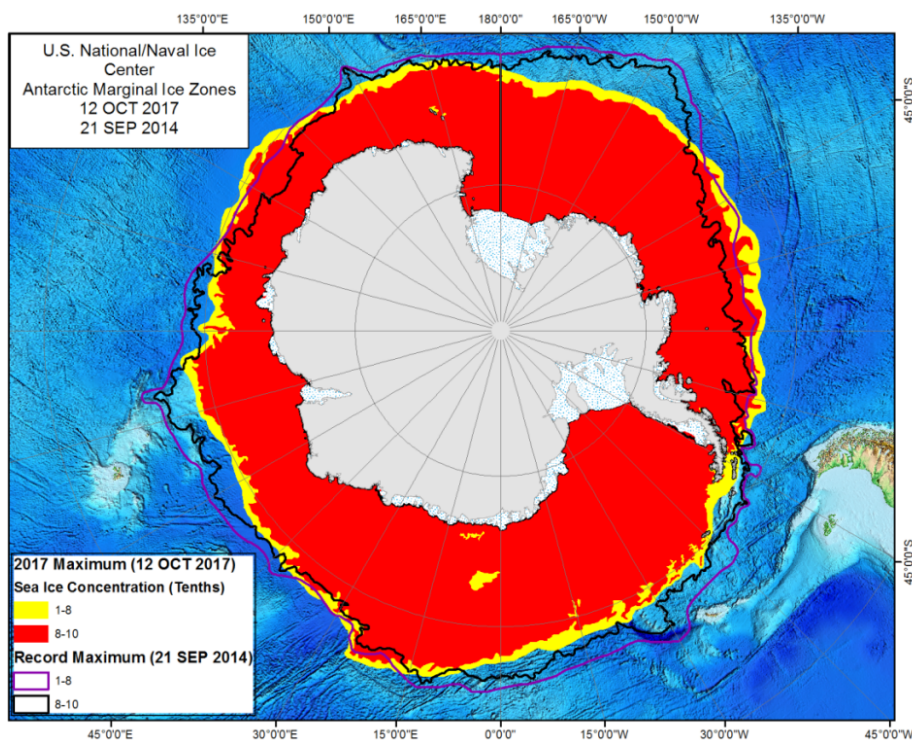


Figure 2. USNIC's daily analysis of the Antarctic Marginal Ice Zone (MIZ) on October 12, 2017. The daily sea ice pack is in red (8-10/10ths or greater of sea ice), and the MIZ is in yellow. The Antarctic record maximum, recorded on September 21, 2014, is depicted with the daily sea ice pack outlined in a black solid line (8-10/10ths or greater of sea ice), and the MIZ outlined in a purple solid line.

To access daily products, weekly products, archival data and much more of our data in various formats, visit the USNIC webpage at: [http://www.natice.noaa.gov/Main\\_Products.htm](http://www.natice.noaa.gov/Main_Products.htm)

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